

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**EMANCIPATION DAY**  
*150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

PRAYER BREAKFAST

8:00 AM

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE PARADE

11:00 AM

FREEDOM PLAZA PUBLIC PROGRAM

2:30 PM

CONCERT

4:00 PM

FIREWORKS

8:30 PM

April 16, 2012



Government of the District of Columbia  
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor

# Proclamation



## 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF DC EMANCIPATION ACT

APRIL 16, 2012

WHEREAS, on April 16, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act that freed 3,100 enslaved persons in the District of Columbia, and effectively abolished slavery in the nation's capital; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is hosting a year-long sesquicentennial celebration of the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act with a variety of programs, lectures, community projects, and other activities to commemorate this historic occasion around the theme: Commemorating the Struggle for Freedom, Justice, and Equality; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Emancipation Amendment Act of 2004 was signed into law on January 4, 2005, to officially celebrate Emancipation Day, as a legal public holiday observed by the District of Columbia government; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the District of Columbia is committed to educating the public about our unique history in the struggle for freedom and the continuation of this struggle for full emancipation in the U.S. House and Senate:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2012, as the "150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF DC EMANCIPATION ACT" in Washington, D.C., and call upon all the residents of this great city to join with me in celebrating this momentous occasion.

*Vincent C. Gray*





**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Executive Office of the Mayor**

April 11, 2012

Dear Celebrant:

It is my great honor to welcome you, on behalf of the 618,000 residents of the District of Columbia, to the kick-off of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of D.C. Emancipation Day. President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the D.C. Compensated Emancipation Act on April 16, 1862, is an important milestone not only in African-American history, but also in the history of all Americans – and in the history of the District of Columbia.

As Mayor of this great city, I am proud of the fact that our nation's first official act of liberation for African Americans began in our city -- because it marked the beginning of the fulfillment of America's founding promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all.

A hundred and fifty years later, we have made leaps and bounds in progress toward the fulfillment of that promise. Sadly, though, it remains a dream partially unrealized for residents of the District of Columbia – who pay federal taxes but enjoy no voting representation in our Congress, and who fight and die in our nation's wars without getting a vote in the body that declares them.

As we celebrate the emancipation of the District's slaves 150 years ago, I pray today that we will soon be celebrating the political emancipation of the District's modern-day residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray".

Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor





COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KWAME R. BROWN, CHAIRMAN

APRIL 17, 2012



***CONGRATULATIONS!***

---

***150TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
EMANCIPATION DAY***

To the Residents of Washington, D.C.:

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings as you recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Day. This most important and worthy occasion undoubtedly will renew your spirits.

I do, however, want to let you know how important it is that we share and preserve our African American history and culture with everyone. On the April 16, 1862 President Lincoln signed the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act that would free more than 3,100 enslaved persons in the District. The District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act represents the only example of compensation by the federal government to former owners of emancipated slaves. On January 4, 2005, Mayor Anthony Williams signed legislation making Emancipation Day an official public holiday in the District.

With a series of activities scheduled, this anniversary will be an phenomenal experience in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Emancipation Day. You have my best wishes for a successful celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Brown", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kwame R. Brown





VINCENT B. ORANGE  
COUNCILMEMBER, AT-LARGE  
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Chairperson  
Committee on  
Small & Local  
Business Development

April 11, 2012

Committee Member  
Government Operations  
Housing & Workforce Development  
Libraries, Parks, Recreation & Planning  
Aging & Community Affairs



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EMANCIPATION DAY

### APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>

The District of Columbia Emancipation Day recognizes and preserves the cultural history and heritage of the District of Columbia. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the District of Columbia Emancipation Day on April 16, 2012 is an important day in the history of the District of Columbia and the United States. On April 16, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act which released the 3,100 enslaved persons of African descent held in the nation's capital. The Act made the District's enslaved persons, the "first freed" by the federal government at a cost of one million dollars paid to the people who enslaved them. Nine months later, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 to mark the beginning of the end of institutionalized slavery in America.

To recognize and preserve the importance of emancipation, after the Civil War, formerly enslaved people and others commemorated the signing of the 1862 Act by parading down Pennsylvania Avenue, in festive attire with music and marching bands proclaiming and celebrating freedom in the District of Columbia Emancipation Day Parade. The parade was received by every sitting President of the United States from 1866 to 1901. On March 8, 2000, the Council of the District of Columbia unanimously established April 16<sup>th</sup> as a legal private holiday, and the Emancipation Day parade resumed in the nation's capital in 2002. On January 4, 2005, the District of Columbia Emancipation Day was made a legal public holiday recognized annually on April 16<sup>th</sup>.



The Honorable Vincent B. Orange, Sr.

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**EMANCIPATION DAY - 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

April 16, 1862 – April 16, 2012

**PRAYER BREAKFAST – THE WILLARD HOTEL**

April 16, 2012 @ 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Invocation

**Rev. Jesse L. Jackson**  
Founder, Rainbow/PUSH

The Occasion

**The Honorable Vincent B. Orange, Sr.**  
Council of the District of Columbia

Musical Selection

**The Lord's Prayer**  
Soloist - **John LeSane**

Welcome

**The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton**  
Congresswoman, District of Columbia

**The Honorable Vincent C. Gray**  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

**The Honorable Kwame R. Brown**  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

Greetings

**Pastor Joel Osteen**  
Joel Osteen Ministries

**Dick Gregory**  
Civil Rights Activist



**Rev. Jesse L. Jackson**  
Founder, Rainbow/PUSH

Musical Selection

**Come Sunday**  
Soloist - **Ebony Jackson**  
Pianist - **Jeffery Chandler**

Keynote Address

**Rev. Al Sharpton**  
Founder, National Action Network

Musical Selection

**Still I Rise**  
Soloist - **Wm. Keith Brown**  
Pianist - **Jeffery Chandler**

Closing Remarks

**The Honorable Vincent B. Orange, Sr.**  
Council of the District of Columbia

Benediction

**Rev. Jesse L. Jackson**  
Founder, Rainbow/PUSH

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**EMANCIPATION DAY - 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

April 16, 1862 – April 16, 2012

# **PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE PARADE**

**11:00 AM**

LINE-UP – 7<sup>th</sup> & Constitution Ave., NW @ 9:30 AM

STARTING POINT – 4<sup>th</sup> & Pennsylvania Ave., NW

PARADE START TIME - 11:00 AM

## **SECTION 1**

1. MPD MOTOR CYCLE UNIT
2. MPD HONOR GUARD
3. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD-HONOR GUARD
4. ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA POLICE DEPT HONOR GUARD
5. FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA FIRE & RESCUE HONOR GUARD
6. MANASSAS, VIRGINIA POLICE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD
7. ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD
8. UNITED STATES ARMY COLOR GUARD
9. UNITED STATES ARMY FIFE & DRUM CORP

## **SECTION 2**

10. 3,100 GRAND MARSHALS

Local and National Leaders, Elected Officials and District of Columbia Citizens, from all walks of life, including men, women and children, march as Grand Marshals to represent the 3,100 enslaved men, women and children of African descent who were released on April 16, 1862 the day President Abraham Lincoln signed the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act.

### SECTION 3

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 11. ST JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND | 27. JC NALLE ELEMENTARY MARCHING BAND                                   |
| 12. BALLOU SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND     | 28. FEREBEE-HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS                         |
| 13. 54 <sup>TH</sup> VOL. INFANTRY REGIMENT     | 29. MCKINLEY TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND                       |
| 14. MINER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL                     | 30. MC TERRELL-MCGOGNEY   |
| 15. MLK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL                       | 31. MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL   |
| 16. DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS           | 32. JOHN EATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHEERLEADING SQUAD                     |
| 17. GIRL SCOUTS OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL         | 33. UNITED BLACK FUND, INC.   |
| 18. ANACOSTIA HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND         | 34. ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.                                    |
| 19. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA                       | 35. KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.                                    |
| 20. MISS BLACK USA DC                           | 36. 100 BLACK MEN, INC.   |
| 21. DC VOTE                                     | 37. TOP FLIGHT CORVETTE CLUB  |
| 22. GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL                  | 38. PLUMMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL   |
| 23. DC UNITED MLS SOCCER TEAM                   | 39. MS. SENIOR DC 2011  |
| 24. DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND            | 40. CRIME & PUNISHMENT MUSEUM-MCGRUFF THE CRIME DOG MASCOT AND REAL DOG |
| 25. ROYAL TEA EVENTS                            | 41. ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE MARCHING BAND                              |
| 26. HARDY MIDDLE SCHOOL MARCHING BAND           |   |



**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**EMANCIPATION DAY - 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

April 16, 1862 – April 16, 2012

**FREEDOM PLAZA PUBLIC PROGRAM**

April 16, 2012 @ 2:30 – 4:00 PM

*The Occasion*

**The Honorable Vincent B. Orange, Sr.**  
Council of the District of Columbia

*Musical Selection*

**Lift Every Voice and Sing**

*Greetings*

**The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton**  
Congresswoman, District of Columbia

**The Honorable Kwame R. Brown**  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

*Original Poem*  
*The Call of Freedom*

**CeLillianne Green**  
Poet, Attorney and Mediator

*Musical Selection*

**The Lord's Prayer**  
Soloist - **John LeSane**

*Keynote Address*

**Rev. Jesse L. Jackson**  
Founder, Rainbow/PUSH

*Musical Selection*

**The Star-Spangled Banner**

*Closing Remarks*

**The Honorable Vincent B. Orange, Sr.**  
Council of the District of Columbia

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**EMANCIPATION DAY - 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

April 16, 1862 – April 16, 2012

**CONCERT – FREEDOM PLAZA**

April 16, 2012

Brian Lenair  
4:00 PM



Familiar Faces  
5:00 PM



Harold Melvin's  
Blue Notes  
6:00 PM



Jean Carne  
7:00 PM

**FIREWORKS**  
8:30 PM





VINCENT B. ORANGE  
COUNCILMEMBER, AT-LARGE  
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Chairperson  
Committee on  
Small & Local  
Business Development

April 16, 2012

Committee Member  
Government Operations  
Housing & Workforce Development  
Libraries, Parks, Recreation & Planning  
Aging & Community Affairs

FROM LINCOLN TO OBAMA TO KING ON THE MALL

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of District of Columbia Emancipation Day is a singularly important occasion which links the historic Presidency of Abraham Lincoln with the equally historic Presidency of Barack H. Obama, as the first President of the United States of African descent.

The alignment of the (1) November 6, 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln as the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, (2) November 4, 2008 election of the first African American President of the United States, Barack H. Obama, (3) October 16, 2011 dedication of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, (4) February 22, 2012 groundbreaking for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, (5) April 16, 2012, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the District of Columbia Emancipation Day, and (6) 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 2013 are historically important for the District of Columbia and for the United States of America.

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of District of Columbia Emancipation Day serves as an appropriate time to reflect on how far the District of Columbia and the United States have progressed since institutionalized enslavement of people of African descent. Most importantly, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reminds us to reaffirm our commitment to forge a more just and united country that truly reflects the ideals of its founders and instills in its people a broad sense of duty to be responsible and conscientious stewards of freedom and democracy. In that regard, freedom and democracy cannot be fully realized until the citizens of the District of Columbia have full voting rights in Congress, budget autonomy and Statehood.

The Honorable Vincent B. Orange, Sr.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**EMANCIPATION DAY**  
*150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

## Thank you

To all of the speakers, volunteers, guests, the United States Park Service, and the government of the District of Columbia for making this 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of Emancipation Day an occasion worthy of the 3,100 enslaved men, women, and children of African descent “first freed” 150 years ago on April 16, 1862.

## Special Thanks

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin  
Senator, Maryland Democrat

On March 29, 2012, obtained unanimous consent to place a copy of the “District of Columbia Emancipation Day – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2012” (March 6, 2012, No. 19–207) in the Congressional Record – Senate (Pages S2233–2234)

Office of Councilmember At-Large  
Vincent B. Orange, Sr.  
Council of the District of Columbia  
Staff and Committee Members—

Shi Faust  
Gene Fisher  
CeLillianne Green, Esq.  
Robert Green, Intern  
Peter F. Johnson, Esq.  
Stacey Lincoln  
Estell Lloyd, Chief of Staff  
Mark H. Long  
Brittany E. Meagley  
Doug N. Payton, Jr.  
Elizabeth E. Webster